CDXC Newsletter

May 1990 Issue 67

Editorial

(Don Field, G3XTT)

First of all, apologies for the late appearance of the last newsletter which meant that we were unable to let you know about some proposed social events such as the very enjoyable get-together which took place at short notice with Phil, VS6CT. If you do want to be informed of any such events in future, please let the social secretary know so that he can phone you. Life will be much simpler, of course, when the majority of CDXC members have access to a PacketCluster system! PacketCluster may appear to have taken up more than its fair share of CDXC's time and effort (though not cash) this year, but it really has revolutionised the way the DXers are able to interact with one another and alert one another of DX activity. For the life of me, I cannot understand why other common interest groups within the hobby have not adopted PacketCluster for their own purposes. Maybe at the end of the day DXers are about the only really tight-knit community within the ranks of amateur radio.

Incidentally, and perhaps not surprisingly, it is a handful of the regulars on PacketCluster who are contributing most of the information.

Contents

Secretary's Notepad 3

News from Members 4

World Radiosport Team Championship 6

The DXer's QSL Service 8

DX Calendar 12

During the April/May period (including Easter), of 56 users who have put DX "spots" on the system, the following eight accounted for 50% of all spots (percentage follows callsign). As you will see, some non-CDXC members are showing the rest of us the way!

G4DYO	12
G3FKH	8
GW3YDX	6
G4BUE	6
GW4BLE	5
G0BMU	5
G3XTT	4
G0DQS	4

This Newsletter is due (all being well!) to be circulated at the A.R.M. For those unable to attend, a single-sheet summary of the proceedings will be mailed with the Newsletter. And, of course, by the time you actually get round to reading this at least some of the Committee members will have changed. Whoever your new Committee, like any voluntary body of this sort they will not take kindly as the year goes on to criticism of what they are (or are not) doing if you haven't actually made a point of letting them have your views. If there are directions you feel CDXC should take, or avenues which you feel it should avoid, then please let the new Committee know at the earliest opportunity.

Turning to what our hobby is all about, the last couple of months have seen some of the richest pickings on the bands for a very long time. Bhutan back on the air, XU by the Hungarians, ST0, S21, 1S and KH5J all on the go simultaneously (1S was worked in the UK on 9 bands which can't be bad!), the WARC bands producing the same DX as the other bands, but much easier to work, rumours of 7O any day now. I could go on, but I'm sure you have all been in there shouting. Of course, the sheer quantity of DX around

has made DXers impatient to get each one into the log so they can go on to chase the next slot to be filled, leading to some appalling operating behaviour, guaranteed to put off any newcomers to DXing at just the time when we really should be encouraging them. I believe CDXC can and should set a lead and an example in operating behaviour, even if it does mean we miss the occasional rare one! It is no good our waiting for "someone else" to cure the malaise within DXing; only DXers can do it.

I enjoyed meeting a number of CDXC members at the NEC, and also having a look at the new TS950 and FT1000 transceivers. It's good to see user needs actually being addressed in these designs, for example a key jack on the front panel, the ability to switch to a second receive antenna, the full range of filter combinations available regardless of mode and, of course, the digital voice recorder option with the FT1000 which looks to be of great value to DXers and contesters alike. CDXC member G3SJX wrote a very comprehensive review of the TS950 for RadCom, and is currently doing the same for the IC781. A review of the FT1000 awaits the loan of a set by the importers.

Welcome this time to new members John, G3JXN, and to Paul, G4BKI. Membership continues to grow, while quality is maintained. A further boost will no doubt come from this year's HF Convention, which will be held on Sunday 30th September at the Penguin Hotel, Daventry. Book your overnight accommodation now as there will be a DX dinner on the Saturday evening. CDXC will no doubt have a stand at the Convention, while key speakers include VK9NS and LA1EE. Lots of other overseas amateurs have already expressed their intention of coming, for example N4AR and ON5NT. There will be two lecture streams, stands by various RSGB Committees and other HF-related interest groups, a major demonstration suite of HF-related software which I am busy organising, G4LJF on PacketCluster, and much else. You can't afford not to be there!

Nearer to hand, CDXC will man the RSGB HQ station for the IARU Radiosport Contest (14/15th July). The station (which counts as a multiplier for all participants) will probably sign GB5HQ or GB6HQ from G3OZF's QTH (Don will have his new tower up by then). Please let Steve, G4JVG, know if you can do some operating - both CW and SSB operators are required. The following weekend is the World Radiosport Team Championship (see elsewhere in this newsletter). The UK will be represented, as you might expect, by two CDXC members, calls to be announced shortly. Please give this event your full support even if you are not normally a contester.

Finally, Ian tells me that some 18,000 CDXC QSL cards have already been ordered by members, so very soon DX stations and QSL managers should start to become very aware of the existence of CDXC! The original batch of 30,000 cards is obviously going to be used up very rapidly, so get your order in quickly if you don't want to have to wait too long.

CDXC Committee:

President	G3HTA
Chairman	G4LJF
Vice-Chairman	G4JVG
Secretary	G3LQP
Treasurer	G4GED
Newsletter	G3XTT

Other Officers:

Awards Manager	G4GED
Social Secretary	G4JVG
Wants List	GW4BLE
Newsletter Printing and Distribution	G4PEO

Club Net: Mondays, 7pm local time, 3773kHz
Club Alerting Frequencies: 144.525 & 70.385MHz
Packet Cluster: G4LJF-4 on 70.325MHz
or via WOK22 on 144.675MHz

Deadline for next newsletter: 14th July 1990

Secretary's Notepad
(From Roger, G3LQP)

The deadline for the Newsletter seems to come round quicker every time - I guess it's a sign of old age!

Firstly, congratulations to Don, G3XTT, on an excellent last issue of the Newsletter, undoubtedly the best yet! A well deserved pat on the back mate!

Welcome to two new members since the last issue: Paul Evans, G4BKI, and John Tindle, G3JXN. This brings the membership total to 121! As the saying goes, the lion goes from strength to strength!

I finally arrived on the Cluster system on 19th April. First impressions are good; I reckon in DX terms it's the best thing since sliced bread, hi!

Talking about DX, I can't remember when there was so much rare DX around during a short period. Can you? Four consecutive entries in the log during April were AH3C/KH5J operated very effectively by Martti Laine, OH2BH, CDXC Certificate of Merit Award winner who actually called "G only" slot (bless his cotton socks, to quote Laurie, G3UML), PA3CXC/ST0, operated when I worked them by CDXC member Frank DJ9ZB, 1S0XV and S2, a never to be forgotten period of DX!

On the 21st April the 3Y Bouvet QSLs were received, as I understand other members did as well. Certainly they are very fine QSLs.

I was pleased to meet so many CDXC members at the NEC exhibition. This was the first time I have ventured north of Watford to the NEC and I was quite impressed with my first visit. Did hook up with a very old friend of mine, Stan Butlin G3MRP, who was my first station as QSL manager when he was 9V1PA in Singapore in 1968!

The "Memorial Trophy" for the late GW0BIC has not really got off the ground as yet. This is due I think to communication problems between West and east divisions! I did visit Alan's widow recently at Monmouth (a superb QTH in every way) and Sue is most anxious that it is finally cleared up asap, and the award is given to a CDXC member during 1990. Perhaps we can deal with this at the ARM on the 27th.

One final thought regarding the HF Convention at Daventry in the fall - Yes, I know it's a long way away, but CDXC will be putting on a stand as usual, hopefully bigger and better than previously and, in order that Beryl and I and John G4PEO don't get lumbered yet again in manning the stand (we also would like to attend some lectures), could we have some volunteers now please?

On my final, final over I would like to thank John Pitty G4PEO, for his great assistance during my year of office as Secretary. Thank you John for cooperation and assistance.

Take care and good DXing

Roger, G3LQP

BHUTAN

(reproduced from the DX Bulletin, March 30th 1990)

The Kingdom of Bhutan is a tiny country about half the size of Indiana, nestled in the Himalayas between India and China. The climate is tropical in the southern plains, but very severe in the mountains. In fact, the country name translates to Land of the Thunder Dragon, referring to the violent storms that sweep out of the mountains. Only 1.5 million Bhutanese inhabit the poor country, which has a life expectancy of about 48 years, and an average income of only $170 per person. The country exports some gypsum and cardamon (a spice), and timber.

The Bhutanese aircraft fleet consists of 1 jet and 2 prop planes, which fly into the only permanently surfaced airport in the country. Only 300 miles of roads are paved. In 1985 Bhutan boasted of 1,890 telephones, and 85 TV sets. Presumably the owners of the TV's had satellite dishes or watched video tapes; there are no TV stations nor FM stations in Bhutan.

Bhutan is governed by a hereditary king, since the monarchy assumed full power in 1907. In 1949 the country won independence from India. There is still no written constitution nor bill of rights. Jigme Singye Wangchuck has been the king since 1974. The country has ample hydroelectric power, but the mountainous terrain discourages heavy industry. Bhutan has considerable appeal as a tourist destination.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Steve, GW4BLE: Just a few lines before the next newsletter deadline, due for distribution I believe at the Review Meeting. Unfortunately, I may not be able to attend this year but trust that there is a reasonable attendance, with some representation from the South West!

As you may already be aware, considerable effort has been put into extending the cluster coverage into the West Country. My node (NEWP4:GW4BLE-4) has been up and running for some time but the main stumbling block has been getting a feed into mid-Devon. Hopefully, by the time of the ARM the "west will be won" (hi!) with a link from here to Graham G2BJK near Cheddar and across from there to John G3HTA at Crediton. With John's vantage point on top of a ridge most other users in the area should have no trouble in accessing his node.

Congratulations to those Club members who may now find themselves on the Honor Roll as a result of the recent activity from Spratly and Bangladesh - roll on South Sandwich in the Autumn!

Regards, Steve

From Andrew, G0HSD: Hi! - Good to be back on the air.

The move has gone very well. We moved into Bledlow (Nr.Princes Risborough) on 18 April and I managed to get the 40m vertical up and running at the end of the month.

2M is a wash out to most of the CDXC, so I have now managed to get a ROM for the BBC to get me back onto the cluster. I am unable to access Ian directly so I am going in thro' HW22.

HF has produced some good results even with a poor ant. system. (59+ to FO first call!!). The QTH is on the northern face of the hills, therefore a good take off to the Pacific (for a change) and still reasonable results to the south. Hopefully when the tower is erected and the beam up and running I should be able to compete in the pile ups again.

When the 2M beam is up I look forward to hearing you all again on .525.

73's Andrew

From Nigel, G3TXF: The International Hamvention in Leningrad is being held Aug 3 - 6, 1990. Last year G3WVG and I were the only attendees from the UK. There may be more this year. There is a "package deal" from Helsinki including train fare, hotel accommodation in Leningrad, meals on Sat/Sun and Hamvention for FIM 1,660 (about £200). Travel agent contact in Helsinki is Friendship Tours +358 0 175 522. Last year there were at least 350 Soviet DXers at this event. Had pleasure of meeting operators from all but one of the 15 Republics. If you want to drink Vodka with UL7's, UM8's and UA0Y's : this is the place!!

73's Nigel G3TXF.

PS: The Finnish travel agent did all the VISA paperwork. My VISA was just waiting for me when I arrived in Helsinki last year. Last's trip was by coach from Helsinki. This year it's by train. The journey's an adventure in itself.

From Steve, G4JVG: I have recently upgraded my station by buying Henry's (G3GIQ) TS930S which, I must say, is a superb base station transceiver. In order to still have DXpedition capability, I also bought a new Yaesu FT-747GX from one of the emporia who were advertising them at an extremely attractive price. OK, it's not the world's best receiver, but it is the smallest, lightest and cheapest 100 watt HF rig around and I am now very much looking forward to trying it out on a mini DXpedition. I look forward to working as many CDXC members as possible from Anguilla between 10th and 23rd June. I plan to be on holiday there with Eva and should be taking the new rig with a Butternut HF6VX antenna. At present, I do not know my callsign: it could be VP2E/G4JVG, although I

have asked for a "proper" VP2E- call.

For those of you interested in contest operation, please think now about what you would like to do, either as a single op., or if you would like to be part of a multi op. group, in the CQ World Wide Phone and CW contests this autumn. Please see my comments in "Contest Corner" elsewhere in this Newsletter.

There has certainly been a lot of DX around recently. For me (running only a Butternut vertical) the most amazing QSO recently was with AH3C/KH5J. The DX News Sheet had just arrived in the post, and I read Bren's comment that their signals on 20 metres had been particularly good between 0700-0900. I had about ten minutes before I had to leave for work but I thought I would at least have a listen - I certainly did not expect to work them in the time I had available. Almost the first station I heard when I switched on the rig was AH3C/KH5J on 14185, he announced his listening frequency (14208) and I caught the tail end of an Italian who had just worked him. One call, very tentatively, brought back an immediate "is that you Stephen? - G4JVG you're 59" from Martti OH2BH, who was operating. From reading the News Sheet to putting a new country into the log took less than 90 seconds - I cannot remember working even an Italian islands expedition with such ease, and Martti even came back with my name. What an excellent operator he is!

Having recently bought new base station and portable rigs, I now have my Kenwood TS-430S (plus PS-430) for sale. If anyone is interested, please give me a call and we can haggle over the price!

73 de Steve

From Martin, G3ZAY:

BANDPLANNING

The IARU Region 1 conference is now behind us and made only a few minor changes to the HF band-plans. We are now preparing papers for the IARU HF Committee (scheduled to meet early next year) and need to consider again if changes should be made. Input from CDXC members will be most welcome.

Some questions you might like to consider are:

* Should the SSB allocation on 40 be extended down to 7035 or 7030?

* Should there be a worldwide packet allocation from 14340-14350?

* Should we move the SSTV frequencies on the HF bands?

On the last point, Denzil, GW3CDP, has written a thoughtful letter suggesting the SSTV allocations should be 14325-14350, 21400-21450, and 29600-29700, all on a non-exclusive shared basis. Would this be better or should there be a spot "meeting frequency" from which SSTVers would QSY to any clear channel?

Please write to me (or the CDXC newsletter) with your thoughts on these or any other bandplanning issues.

73 de Martin

(see also Martin's suggestion at the top of the next page with respect to the World Radioport Team Championship)

(The following item was taken off the packet network recently, and will be of interest to Cluster users)

Hello, and thank you for reading this bulletin.

Have you noticed the considerable increase in the number of new operators appearing on the Packet Radio scene lately? Particularly among (dare I say it?) the Class A fraternity.

In this area, as no doubt in many others, there is a lot of interest being kindled in the mode, amongst HF DX chasers, by the advent of DX Packet Clusters. Quite a number of operators who, until recently expressed no interest at all in Packet, are rushing out and buying TNC's, dumb terminals, and other such equiptment, in order to take advantage of the DX spotting information that is available on the Clusters.

Are we seeing the birth of a new phenomenon? Packet Radio being used for a specific purpose, other than one of "packet for packet's sake". Some will say that theres nothing new

(cont'd on p.10)

WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

It seems to me that this is a golden opportunity to put CDXC on the map. Why don't we field a number of two-op teams, working to the same rules on equipment as the main competitors (no linears, basic triband beams, and verticals/dipoles for LF), and hold an internal contest? The points and multipliers would be as described below and opposite, but the placing system would be the one to be used by the Seattle teams. This envisages separate rankings for CW points, SSB points and multipliers. The station with the highest CW score would get 100 points and all other CW scores would be expressed as a percentage. The SSB and multiplier scores would be processed in the same way, and the final score would be the sum of the three "normalised" scores. I am willing to enter from the G6UW station. Will any CW expert join me? How about the rest of you? Please drop me a line (or phone on 0223 424714) if you are interested.

Martin, G3ZAY

BE A PART OF HISTORY

In July and August 1990, 2,500 invited world-class athletes from around the world will gather in Seattle for the 1990 Goodwill Games. "Uniting the world's best" is the motto of these Games.

In keeping with the Spirit of the Goodwill Games, a similar competitive event with world class amateur radio contesters has been planned. The World Radiosport Team Championship, held in cooperation with the Goodwill Exchange Program of the 1990 Goodwill Games, is endorsed by the Radio Sport federation in the Soviet Union and the American Radio Relay League in the U.S.

On July 20th, 1990, up to 23 international teams of the world's best HF contesters will participate in the historic World Radiosport Team Championship. By contacting these teams you too can be part of history. Make 5 contacts during this ten hour event with the World Radiosport Team contesters and you will receive an official WRTC participation certificate, contact 30 of the official teams and receive a WRTC commemorative pin, and the top 500 scores submitted will win the official WRTC T-shirt FREE!

"In all my years of contesting, there have always been geographic advantages that couldn't be overcome no matter how hard you tried," comments Operating Event Chairman, Martti Laine, OH2BH. "For the first time, all of the competitors will be gathered in the same area and will play on a level playing field to establish the true champions."

In addition to the four US and four USSR teams, competitors have been invited from Japan, Canada, Spain, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Bulgaria, England, Sweden, Finland, Italy, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Brazil and Argentina. All teams will use fully equipped ICOM stations. Members of the American team include K1AR, KQ2M, K7JA, K1DG, KR0Y, W9RE, W7EJ and AA4NC. The Honorary U.S. Team Captain is Katashi Nose, KH6IJ, and the alternates are K1CC, N2AA and KN0E. The international teams are now being finalised.

The ten-hour competition begins on July 20, 1990, at 2100 UTC. All standard contest bands from 80-10 metres will be used on both CW and SSB. Official WRTC stations will be identifying by having /WG (World Games) after their call. Check the July issue of most ham magazines for complete rules. In addition to our sponsors, the WRTC is also supported by CQ Magazine & Joe Mullin, W3RLR.

Be a part of history! For more information and log sheets, send an SASE to WRTC, 4821-51st SW, Seattle, WA 98116. We'll see YOU on the air!

Sponsored by: Ham Radio Outlet, U.S. Tower, MFJ, Icom.

RULES OF THE 1990 WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE: July 20-21, 1990

TIME: 2100-0700 GMT

OBJECT: For amateurs throughout the world to work the World Radiosport Championship Teams and each other. The World Radiosport Team Championship is in cooperation with the Goodwill Exchange Programs of the 1990 Goodwill Games. Invited teams from around the world will compete in Seattle, Washington, USA, for the world championship. There will be up to 23 competing 2 operator stations signing with special designator /WG (World Games). They will not be identifying in regards to their nationality and they will all be using the same power and similar antennas. All WRTC stations will be located in the Seattle area. The WRTC is sponsored by ICOM, Ham Radio Outlet, U.S. Tower and MFJ. Also supported by CQ Magazine and Joe Mullin, W3RLR.

MODE: SSB and CW on 80-40-20-15-10 metres. The following windows are recommended and will be used by WRTC stations:

CW: 3525-3550, 7025-7050, 14025-14050, 21025-21050, 28025-28050 kHz

SSB: 3775-3925, 7150-7250 (and split), 14200-14300, 21300-21400, 28400-28500 kHz.

CATEGORY: All band only. Single operator. Multi-operator, single transmitter. Multi-operator, multi-transmitter. All per CQWW Rules. Work any station once per band/mode.

EXCHANGE: RST and serial number starting with 001.

POINTS: 50 points for working WRTC station (/WG)(each band/mode)

3 points for different continent

2 points for same continent, different country

1 point for same country

2X point value for each CW QSO

MULTIPLIERS: US, VE and JA call areas; DXCC Countries; WRTC stations (/WG). All per band/mode.

SCORING: QSO Points x multipliers is final score

AWARDS: 1. The winning world Radiosport Championship Teams will receive gold, silver and bronze medals

2. Work 5 WRTC (/WG) QSO's, win a certificate or work 30 WRTC (/WG) QSO's, win a WRTC Commemorative Pin or be in the top 500 scores and receive a FREE WRTC T-shirt (include size, S-M-L-XL, on summary sheet). For awards, all band and modes count.

LOG DUE DATE: Must be postmarked by August 20, 1990.

MAIL TO: World Radiosport Team Championship, 4821 - 51st SW, Seattle, WA U.S.A. 98116

Decisions of the Committee are final

THE DXERS QSL SERVICE

(Before proceeding, I must make it clear that the following appeared in the 1st April issue of Inside DX. There is no truth in the rumour that DX News Sheet will shortly be launching a competitor service of its own)

DXers are constantly scouring the bands daily at all hours looking for that NEW one. In this fast paced world where INSTANT is the main word in one's vocabulary, the DXer cannot afford to miss a NEW one and today's DXer runs into many problems. When does one sleep, what priority should your job take, is supper really necessary, can I take time out to speak to the wife and children, and lastly, the real killer ... VACATION. Taking time off from the rig for vacation can cause DXT's (for the uneducated - DX tremoritis), incoherent speech and, for the low-band DXer, the lack of bloodshot eyes (they no longer look like the tributaries of the Amazon River when in flood). Some of you DXers have tried to overcome this problem by installing a rig in the car but have found that in the real big pileups the only thing that happens is frustration. WELL worry no more, INSIDE DX has come up with the solution - "THE DXERS DX SERVICE". Just what is this service? Well. It can solve your vacation dilemma as well as some of the other problems described above and which we DXers must deal with daily. Just let us know when your vacation is taking place, or the day that you have to show up for work, or the evening you have to spend with the wife and kiddies and we will step in and scour the bands for you, insuring that you will miss nothing you need. We are an all band/all mode operation with the proper setup to insure success on the first call. (We recently had a new AC service installed - 880VAC with 400 amp reserve) Our I/O time in the pileups is second to none again for the uneducated, I/O stands for IN-OUT time, how fast you find a station, work him, then go on to the next station) so this allows us to serve the largest number of DXers on a per-day basis.

What do we need from you? First, the dates you will be away from the rig, the countries you need (on what bands and modes) or, for the WAZ chaser, your needed zones. Before we go any further, we do charge for this service (this statement will undoubtedly weed a few DXers out). Payment can be made by cash, Mastercard, Visa (both of these phrases (?) are registered trademarks), cashiers cheque, money order, IRC's, mint postage and, for those in remote areas, your first-born, wife, husband (only if they are able to do tower and rig maintenance) and lastly, in the real remote locations (eg Maria Theresa Reef, Krakatu, lost continent of Atlantis, etc), a cup of Yak's milk will be accepted. Pricing is arranged according to the rarity of the needed one. We have broken these areas down into four pricing brackets: No.1 - Easy Bracket - Charge for each QSO in this bracket runs $25.00 or a quantity break of 3/$50.00 - this bracket includes such countries as G, VK, DJ, XE, ZA, 7O, XZ (the last three are very easy - we just print the QSL card for you - the DXCC desk has stated that they would overlook this slight infraction of the rules); No.2 - Semi-Rare Bracket - countries like KH8, KH9, TJ, VK9, etc - $40.00 per QSO and again our quantity break 3/$100.00; No.3 - Rare Bracket - includes such countries as VK0 (Heard Is.), ZL8, 5A, etc; No.4 - our last bracket - Super Rare Bracket - 5R8, 3X1, ET, EP, S2, 4W, etc - $200.00 or, once again, our quantity break 3/$500.00 (cost runs high here because we have to print an official looking licence/document on the country's letterhead to satisfy the DXCC desk - why does this word keep popping up? - on it being a legitimate operation - so it will count for the Honor (?) Roll). Because of response in years past (we were swamped with an overwhelming number of orders) this is a one-day offer. Phone 1-800-4 EASY DX (the 800 number is for the cheapskate DXers) between 0001z-2359z on March 31st. On April 1st we take time off to use our special callsign MONEY. If you are unhappy with our performance, we will refund all payments when FR5DX/FR0FLO QSLs 100% and/or no South American DXpedition states your greenstamp and QSL card got lost in their

mail service, please re-QSL.

We are an equal opportunity employer (we employ the mentally handicapped DXers).

SOFTWARE SPOT
(Don Field, G3XTT)

I want to have a brief look this time not at contest logging (though there are many programs in addition to K1EA now available), but at station logs. Contest logging programs are designed for rapid entry of a limited amount of data (in the case of CQWW, for most QSOs only the callsign need be added as incoming report and zone are likely to be self-evident). Station logs are designed to hold a range of data which can then be searched in various ways, and printed out in log format, as QSL labels or whatever. Because no two amateurs are likely to agree on what they want of a station log, the ideal would be a logging program which you can tailor to you own requirements. This is quite feasible if you are prepared to invest time and money in a database program such as dBase or Foxbase. Several CDXC members have done this. Ray, G0AEQ, has built a log around dBase which has a look-up table for prefix so that it knows which DXCC country the worked station is in. In my dBase log I have fields for a two-letter state abbreviation for US QSOs and for the IOTA reference where applicable.

The disadvantage of taking this approach, apart from the cost, is that it can be very time-consuming writing the various routines to search the database, print QSL labels, etc. Also, problems can occur when you want to import data from other programs such as the K1EA contest log.

The cheapest solution is to use one of the public domain or shareware programs available off bulletin boards (several can be found, for example, on G8LWY's landline BBS). However, some are totally unsuitable. The KD2MT logger, for example, allows callsigns of 6 characters only and is clearly aimed at VHF operators in the US (this would accommodate WA1AAA, but not PY2ZDL/PY2/M which is one of the longest I have had to accommodate in my database to date.

The best way with any program is to play with it before buying, and several shareware programs allow for this. You can have a copy free, but paying the registration fee gets you a manual plus support, one or more upgrades, etc. We intend to have a number of such programs on display at the HF Convention, along with specification sheets, a blow by blow comparison of features, etc. However, let me give you here just a brief list of some of the more interesting programs I have come across so far:

WJ2O's Master QSO has some useful help screens, with information like "Q" codes, etc, available at the touch of a function key. It also has the ability to import log data from other popular logging programs such as K1EA's contest log.

PAYL DXLOG majors on tracking your scores for the major ARRL and CQ Magazine awards and automatically printing the application forms for you, hence saving a lot of paperwork in the shack.

The Total Ham Plus is a suite of programs intended to handle station logging, contest logging, QSL manager database, awards records, etc, as well as being able to calculate beam headings, drive your TNC for packet spotting, and much more.

G3PMR's Station Log has been written specifically for UK DXers and fully meets DTI requirements, so you can dispense entirely with a paper log.

The KD7P Logbook Management System offers tracking of band scores (including 6m) and award totals (including Oblasts), and imports from K1EA, WB2DND, and other popular log formats

All the above, and more, will be shown at the Convention. All, of course, handle QSO searching, printing of QSL labels, printing of log sheets in various formats, etc. Also, because of the amount of data involved in a log database all require a computer with hard disc.

(cont'd from p.5)

about that, what about mailboxes etc? but really speaking, up to now operators have used Packet because of direct interest in data communications, whether it be for real time QSO's, or time shifted QSO's via the MBX network. But the arrival of DX clusters has changed all that. I believe we will see a LOT more new users on the mode, who will use it purely as an adjunct to their main interest, i.e. that of working DX on phone or CW (or any other mode, other than packet itself).

By now you may well be saying "so what? whats the point in stating the obvious?"

Well my point is, that its very good to see the popularity of packet radio increasing (I'm not one of those who wants to keep something good just for the use of "the chosen few") but the burning question is

CAN THE EXISTING NETWORK COPE WITH THE EXTRA LOAD???

Now before all the DXcluster users jump up and down and tell me that most of them use 70mhz to access the clusters, and some have even provided their own access nodes, at their own expense, (incidentally, on the same 70mhz frequency that is used by some of the mailbox NTS traffic) I have no doubt that a percentage of DXcluster users, will not go to the bother of equipping themselves with 4m rigs and aerials, but will use the existing network of Nodes, Switches and Digipeaters, to get through.

So I would tactfully remind them that a lot of people have gone to a lot of trouble, and expense, unselfishly, to provide the network that exists today.

So PLEASE HF DX chasers, DXcluster users and the like, if you plan to use the existing network on 2,4, or 70cms, SUPPORT THE NETWORK by joining the local user group!

In the Bristol Channel area, there exists SWAX(N), which is a user group dedicated to maintaining and improving the local network. Annual subscrition is Five Pounds, which is a lot cheaper than a 4m rig and aerial !!!

Other such groups exist in ather parts of the country, dedicated to the same ends. So PLEASE make inquiries and JOIN TODAY!

Happy Packeting...Gud DX and 73 de Ray GW1FJI @ GB7IMB

CONTEST CORNER

(from Steve, G4JVG)

The CDXC entry in the WPX SSB Contest at the end of March from the G6UW QTH in Cambridge, in which G3ZAY, G4DQW, G4JVG, G0HSD, G0KUB and G0MFO took part, produced a score of 3,753,999 (2184 QSOs, 771 multipliers). This is a slightly better score than our entry as GB4CDX two years ago, although this can be accounted for by the larger number of prefixes, and therefore multipliers, available on the bands.

Conditions generally were quite poor, with relatively few JAs or Ws worked on 10 metres or, for that matter, 20 metres. 15 was arguably the best band during most of the contest. Martin ZAY, Dick MFO and I spent some considerable time in putting up a 40 metre 2-element wire beam, beaming to North America, and this helped us to work even a few W6s and W7s which we would otherwise probably have missed on the Butternut vertical. The other antennas were a 3-element tribander at 60 feet and an 80 metre dipole at about 70 feet. Thanks go to Martin for his hospitality and use of his station at quite short notice.

It's now time to start thinking of what CDXC, as a club, should be doing in the CQ World Wide contests this autumn. Last year we put in a very successful multi-operator single-transmitter (multi-single) entry as GJ6UW, coming second in Europe in that category (we estimate) and breaking all previous UK records. We even beat the former British Isles multi-operator multi-transmitter record!

CDXC has also entered a "team" on a couple of occasions. This involves summing the logs of five single operator entries, at least one of which must be in a different continent. All names and callsigns of participating members must be nominated before the contest (so it is not possible to simply send in

the best five logs of a larger group!). We are fortunate in having in our ranks two of Britain's top single-operator contesters, namely Al G3FXB and Steve GW4BLE, and also at least two highly successful contesters outside Europe, Fred K3ZO and Steve NM2Y (G3YDV). In previous years, Fred has operated as part of a multi-operator group from Thailand (which would not make his participation in a CDXC team entry possible) but Steve has operated as a single op. from VP5 and XE2.

Speaking personally, I am looking at the possibilities of a number of locations for a single op. entry to the CQ WW Phone contest in October, although no definite plans have been made yet. If one of these comes off, or if NM2Y or K3ZO or any other CDXC member will be operating as a single op. from outside Europe, we already have the makings of another CDXC team entry.

CDXC also has a number of new members who are very proficient CW contesters, so a team entry in the CQ WW CW event in November is also perfectly possible. If all members who are planning to operate as single ops. in either the Phone or CW contests could let me know their plans as soon as they are firm, I would be pleased to co-ordinate CDXC team entries. Team entries should preferably consist of five single op. all-band entries but, if you are planning to enter single band, please also keep me informed, as we may need one or two single band entries to make up the numbers.

As regards a CDXC multi operator entry in the Phone contest in October, I have already spoken to Den GJ3YHU, our host at the GJ6UW contest site. I put to him the idea that this year we may like to try to beat the European multi-multi record, held by UP8A. Unfortunately, he was not terribly enthusiastic about the idea of multi-multi. Without Den's 100% backing, multi-multi would not really be possible from the GJ site. Den would not be averse to us operating multi-single again, though. On the other hand, perhaps we should try a different QTH? What about GU or GD? Or GM/Shetlands? (a separate multiplier from Scotland). If anyone has any ideas on what we should be doing, please let me or Don G3XTT know. The same applies to the CW event in November - should CDXC put in a multi-single entry for the first time?

CDXC Events Diary

(This Diary has been compiled by G4JVG who will be pleased to receive additions, alterations, etc. At the monent a number of the dates/events are subject to alteration or change.)

2/3 June	HF NFD
24 June	Longleat Rally (Western DX Group Hospitality Tent)
13/14 July	IARU Radiosport Contest effort (G3OZF QTH)
20/21 July	World Radiosport Team Championship
3-6 Aug	Leningrad Hamvention
Summer	Bar-B-Q or dinner, to be arranged.
29/30 Sept.	RSGB HF Convention at Daventry.
27/28 Oct.	CQ World Wide Phone Contest (CDXC multi-op entry? Single operators, particularly outside Europe, required for CDXC "Team" entry - please contact G4JVG or G3XTT by early October
24/25 Nov.	CQ World Wide CW Contest (Should there be a CDXC multi-op entry this year for the first time?) Single operartors, particularly outside Europe, required for CDXC "Team" entry - please contact G4JVG or G3XTT by early November.
8 Dec.	Annual Christmas Dinner at Ye Olde Swan, Thames Ditton, YLs/XYLs welcome! Please book your place by 17th November - phone G4JVG on 0734-722538.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations are due to Fred, K3ZO, who was 5th highest scoring US station in last year's CQ WPX Contest and to Al, G3FXB, who walked away with the *Les Nouvelles DX* trophy for the highest combined score in Europe (single-op) in the 1989 CQ WPX SSB and CW contest.

CDXC CHILTERN DX CLUB

DX Calendar (*Tnx G4DYO*)

(numbers refer to issue of DXNS in which the information appeared)

Soon?	7O by 9K Ops	1416
Til May 29	GM WAB squares	1413
Til May 30	4J6X by CQ Mag	1413
Til May 30	4N0JRT	1413
Til May 31	FJ/F1MGS	1414
Til May 31	9N5CW/DX - SP's	1398
Til Jun	SM0OIG/YN	
Til Jun?	VR6JR by G3OKQ	1401
Til Jun 17	GB0QRP by G4BUE	1416
Til mid-Jun	OC-59 by V63AY	1416
Til Jul 27	JX7DFA	1404
Til Sep 14	PA3FAC in SU	1409
Til Oct	Pacific AA6LF	1404
Til Dec	CE by F2JD	1416
Til Dec	ZM pfx by ZL's	1364
Til Dec	VR200 Pitcairn	1394
Til Jan '91	L0AIC Antarc	1407
Til Apr 91	Y90ANT	1407
Til Oct 91	7P8CL by SM5KDM	1411
May	5B4AAJ by G0HTK	1408
May	Europa Is FR5AI	1416
May	OC-108/9 YB5NOC	1410
May ?	Yasawa 3D2YA?	1415
May 19-Jun 3	SV5 by W's	1409
May 20-?	Rotuma/VK2BCH	1408
May 20-Jun 4	TK/DL7HZ	1416
May 22-30	8P by W's	1416
May 23-Jun 1	FR5ZU/T	1416
May 24-Jun 2	US1A	1414
May 25-29	4U5ITU	1405
May 25-Jun 3?	AS-05 4K4/UZ9KWJ	1415
May 25-Jun 5	ZB2/DK6AS	1415
May 26-30	EU-92 GM3UTQ/P	1415
May 27-31	NA-74 KL7IEI	1406
May 27-Jun 3	GM Is for WAB	1407
May 28-Jun 3	SI8MI	1408
May 29-Jun 13	EU-76 by FF1PGG	1412
May 30-Jun 6	C21NI by VK2GJH	1415
May/Jun?	AS-44 4K4IA	1402
Jun	AS-69 by UA9OBA	1414
Jun-July	PY0T Trindade	1409
Jun 1-3	ZP2 by ZP5XHM	1410
Jun 1-14	EU-41 by IK2GSO	1414
Jun 1-30	S79 by OH2MCN	1413
Jun 3-6	FV6PAX	1417
Jun 4-8	RN7N	1415
Jun 4-20	4K3MI Morzhovets Is	1414
Jun 6-12	NA-80 WA4VCC/C6	1410
Jun 6-15	T30JH by VK2GJH	1415
Jun 8-11	ZP3 by ZP5XHM	1410
Jun 9-10	Ibero-Amer. SSB Ctst	
Jun 14-17	AF-36 EH9ICH	1416
Jun 15-20	T20JH by VK2GJH	1415
Jun 16-17	All Asian SSB Ctst	
Jun 17	QRP Day	
Jun 17-18	FV6PAX	1417
Jun 20-27	T30JH by VK2GJH	1415
Jun 22-24	ZP9 by ZP5XHM	1410
Jun 22-24	T46FK (IOTA)	
Jun 23-24	RSGB 160m CW Ctst	
Jun 27-?	C21NI by VK2GJH	1415
Jun/Jul	Society I AA6LF	1406
Jul?	Maraca Is	1410
Jul 1	Canada Day Ctst	
Jul 1-7	ZW7AB/BX	1417
Jul 1-15	UF7V	1411
Jul 7-8	YV SSB Contest	
Jul 12-24	EK1NWB Kizhi Is	1415
Jul 14-15	IARU CW/SSB Ctst	
Jul 20	OC-57 FO0FK	1415
Jul 21-22	HK CW/SSB Contest	
Jul 21-22	SEANET CW Contest	
Jul 27-Aug 24	TF by DL's	1417
Jul 28-29	YV CW Contest	
late Jul	N Cooks ZK1XP	1406
Jul 28-Aug 6	EU-48 Hoedic Is	1414
May 27-Jun 3	GM Is for WAB	
May 28-Jun 3	SI8MI	
May/Jun?	AS-44 4K4IA	
Jun??	7O by W's	
Jun-Aug	PY0T	
Jun 9-10	Ibero-Amer. SSB Ctst	
Jun 16-17	All Asian SSB Ctst	
Jun 23-24	RSGB 160m CW Ctst	
Jun/Jul	Society I AA6LF	
Jul 1	Canada Day Ctst	
Jul 7-8	YV SSB Contest	
Jul 14-15	IARU CW/SSB Ctst	
Jul 21-22	HK CW/SSB Contest	
Jul 21-22	SEANET CW Contest	
Jul 28-29	YV CW Contest	
late Jul	N Cooks ZK1XP	

DX Editors are welcome to use news items from this newsletter (with due acknowledgement), but please check with the editor if you wish to use a complete article.